

CONNECT: STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Explore promising practices and collaboration models to optimize your Mentoring Children of Prisoners grant project. Thinking outside of the box may open you to new potential partnerships that might provide training and technical assistance, expand your base of mentors or mentees, achieve your fundraising goals, or provide resources in nearly any aspect of your project.

This interactive session will encompass both theoretical and practical instruction. In addition to hearing from expert presenters, participants will also have the opportunity to connect with each other in small groups. A peer panel consisting of current Mentoring Children of Prisoners grantees will address the audience during a lively panel discussion.

Session topics include:

- partnership models;
- assessing your organization;
- needs-based partner selection;
- developing collaboration plans and formal agreements;
- maintaining effective partnerships through performance management; and
- ending collaborations well.

Presenter: Brent Swinton, Training and Technical Assistance Manager, MCP Technical Assistance Center

Brent Swinton gained his broad expertise in fundraising, program management, and nonprofit management working in the public sector as a case manager, field researcher, executive director, and fundraising consultant. Swinton currently serves as training and technical assistance manager at Dare Mighty Things, Inc., which implements both the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Technical Assistance Center and the Compassion Capital Fund National Resource Center. Swinton's practical experience and academic preparation brings added value to the faith-based and community-based organizations participating in those U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant programs. Swinton earned a master's of public administration degree with an emphasis on nonprofit management from the University of Central Florida, and has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Georgia. He and his wife are the parents of two daughters.

Peer Presenters:

Angela Brown, Partnership Development Specialist, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana

Cynthia Timmons, Director, Children of Promise—Mentors of Hope, University of Oklahoma OUTREACH

Judith Clark, Hawaii Youth Services Network